



PHOTO: EUGENE POLICE

CRACKING DOWN ON ANIMAL ABUSE

Oregon senators pave the way for increased animal safety and welfare across the state

With three recently passed bills, Oregon is cracking down on animal abuse and neglect. The bills, two of which were carried by Eugene senators, touch on everything from animal forfeiture to cock fighting.

These bills, however, may fail to impact the prosecution of animal cruelty in Lane County, since most cases are treated as code violations rather than crimes in the area.

House bill 3177 “authorizes the seizure and forfeiture of hens and chicks associated with cockfighting” instead of just the forfeiture of fighting roosters, according to an Oregon Legislature news release. This bill was carried to passage in senate by Eugene Sen. James Manning, who says that taking the hens and chicks away along with the fighting birds “will curb the tide of continuing on with this activity, and it’s better for the birds as well.”

Manning says he became concerned about the issue after seeing documentaries highlighting the practice and its cruelty. “I would hope that people will become more

aware of the actual harm it does,” he adds.

Linda Fielder of the Oregon Humane Society investigations unit says cockfighting is more common than dogfighting in Oregon. She remembers just one dogfighting case in 13 years at OHS, but says “cockfighting definitely is more prevalent and more reported,” with the investigations unit receiving several cockfighting calls each year.

Fielder says neighbors are more likely to report cockfighting farms since “it’s harder to remain secretive when you’re raising cocks.” Convictions are more difficult, as evidence of fighting needed for conviction is kept separate from these farms, which often house hundreds of crowing roosters. “Generally that’s not where the fights are held,” she adds.

Citizens can keep an eye out for both types of fighting rings, Fielder says. Signs of dogfighting include training dogs using treadmills, and “they do a lot of bite

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ACTIVIST ALERT

- The Civil Liberties Defense Center is looking for bilingual people who want to be trained to give **Know Your Rights for the Immigrant Community** trainings in Lane County. Currently this training is only being given in English, and they are trying to create a group of high quality trainers that can deliver information in English and Spanish that community organizations could use when there is a need. The training is a 6-week commitment, every Thursday evening starting June 15, from 6-9 pm. There is one week off in the middle, and participants can take one week off for schedule conflicts. If you are interested/able, please contact info@cldc.org or call 541-687-9180.

- The Oregon Department of Agriculture is accepting applications for **growing canola in the Willamette Valley for the 2018 growing season**. The ODA says that, “Information from the applications will be used to determine allocation of 500 acres to be designated for canola production in the Willamette Valley Protected District as provided by HB 3382A, passed in the 2015 Oregon legislative session.” Completed grower applications are due to ODA by June 15. The decision to grow canola, also known as rapeseed, in the valley was met with dismay by organic seed farmers. The plant spreads easily and conventional (nonorganic) canola is easily contaminated by genetically modified (GMO) crops. The Willamette Valley canola production application form can be found at go.usa.gov/xNPMr or by calling 503-986-4550.

- The **Fourth Annual Interfaith Peace Walk** is 6 pm Sunday, June 25. Meet at the Ebbert United Methodist Church Community Garden at 6th and D Street in Springfield “for peace making activities and then walk through the neighborhood to see a couple historic sites.” The walk ends at The Learning Garden at Brattain, at C Street and 10th, for refreshments. Organizers say, “The purpose of this walk is to forge relationships and understanding through the sharing of personal stories and “People of all ages, faiths and backgrounds are invited to join in this walk for peace in our hearts and world.” For more information call 541-603-8706.

CORRECTION/CLARIFICATION

We ran a blurb about Northwest Paella Fest, a benefit for FOOD for Lane County in our Summer Guide last week. If you were planning on paella than the organizers want you to know that the event is not public and is invitation only as there is limited space.



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HEAR YE !!

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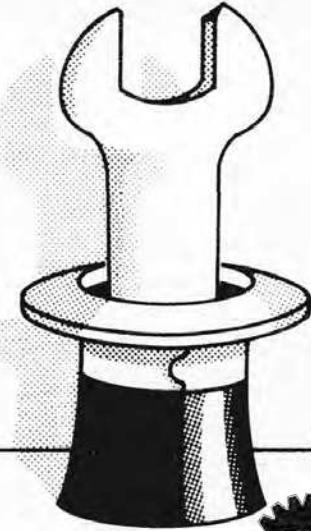
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